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U.S. SENATOR FOR NEW MEXICO

Kid PROOF Act

Senators Luján and Rubio

Background

In recent years, youth suicide and overdose have increased dramatically across the United States. The most recent [data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey show an alarming increase in high school students who report having persistent feeling of sadness and hopelessness, poor mental health, and having seriously considered attempting suicide. Similarly, the United States has experienced a tragic increase in the [rate](#) of overdose deaths among teenagers in recent years, with deaths nearly doubling in 2020 and rising another 20 percent in the first half of 2021 compared with the decade preceding the pandemic. Families across the country need support to prevent their children from making a tragic decision.

Lethal Means Safety

Lethal means safety is an evidence-based approach to suicide prevention that focuses on temporarily securing the lethal means that a child considering suicide is ideating on. For example, opioids or a knife. By properly storing the means the child is ideating on, [research](#) has found that 95% of individuals do not go on to die by suicide, saving lives.

Kid Providing Resources for Optimal Outcomes against Fatalities Act of 2023

The Kid PROOF Act updates the Youth Prevention and Recovery Program in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to include grants for health care providers to purchase lethal means safety supplies (lockboxes or safes) for kids at risk of suicide or overdose. Under this legislation, no new grant programs are created and no new funding is added to the program.

Endorsing Organizations

Sandy Hook Promise, the Children's Hospitals Association, Save the Children, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

To cosponsor, please reach out to Katie Mertens with Senator Luján at katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov or Nicole Wright with Senator Rubio at nicole_wright@rubio.senate.gov.